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03500.015628

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Stephen M. Brinich
AKIHIKO NAKATANI ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2624
Application No.: 09/879,195)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 4041
Filed: June 13, 2001)	
	:	
For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS)	April 11, 2005 (Monday)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In the Office Action dated March 9, 2005, the Examiner entered a restriction requirement between three groups of claims. Group I, claims 1-11 and 15, is drawn to an image reader memory control arrangement, Group II, claims 12, 14, and 16-18, is drawn to a line sensor with an image memory control arrangement, and Group III, claim 13, is drawn to an image sensor memory control arrangement based on image resolution. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

Applicants submit that the embodiments in the different groups are so closely related as to not require separate fields of search. A duplicative search, with possibly inconsistent results, may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained. In addition, any

nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to perform a search for the overall invention is outweighed by the public interest in not having to obtain and study separate patents that may issue from Applicants' invention if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-11 and 15.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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